Memorandum

TO: Mr. W. C. Sullivan
FROM: Mr. J. P. Bland

DATE: January 16, 1964

SUBJECT: MARK LANE
SECURITY MATTER - C

The attached memorandum was prepared in response to the Director's instructions: "Give to Rankin summary on Mark Lane, N. Y. lawyer who has been retained by Mrs. Oswald to represent Oswald before Warren Commission." Lane's name is included in the Reserve Index of the New York Office. From 1953 to 1961 he was a member of, held positions in, attended functions of, or otherwise associated with the National Lawyers Guild, cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUCA) as a communist front.

Lane has spoken at affairs of Burning Issues, a youth organization now affiliated with Advance, a similar organization which follows the line of the National Communist Party (CP) leadership. Burning Issues was also active in backing Lane's political campaign for congress, in which he was unsuccessful.

His public utterances have praised Cuba and condemned the United States. He has also been active in organizations whose aims are the abolition of the HCUA and many of his speeches have urged such abolition.

He received CP support in 1962 in his effort to become elected to congress. In November, 1961, Lane and Benjamin J. Davis, CP National Secretary, were principal speakers at a meeting at Columbia University protesting the school's ban against campus speaking engagements by communists. He was arrested and convicted as a "Freedom Rider" in Jackson, Mississippi, on June 8, 1961, and on April 2, 1962, he was fined $400 in New York City as a "scofflaw" for having ignored numerous traffic tickets he had received. A 1962 investigation of Lane by the District Attorney, Queens County, New York, for alleged

Lane had\n
RECOMMENDATION: NOT RECORDED 22 JAN 1964

That the attached memorandum concerning Lane be furnished to J. Lee Rankin by Inspector James R. Malley.

Enclosure 409/763

Jan 21 1964
By broadcasts on January 15, 1964, stated that
Mark Lane, New York lawyer, has been retained by Lee Harvey
Oswald's mother to represent Oswald before the committee
chaired by President Lyndon B. Johnson to investigate the
assasination of President John F. Kennedy.

The "Daily Worker" for May 27, 1963, stated that
the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) held an election of officers
on May 20, 1963, and that Mark Lane was elected an as official
member of the Board of Directors of the NLG.

The "Daily Worker" was an east coast communist
newspaper which is no longer being published.

In June, 1963, a source whose reliability was
unknown but who was in a position to furnish such information
stated that Lane's name appeared on the membership list of
the New York Chapter of the NLG and that he was a subscriber
to the "Lawyers Guild Review," the official publication of
the NLG. On May 24, 1961, Lane spoke at a leadership meeting
of the organization, according to another source.

A report of the House Committee on Un-American
Activities (HUAC) has described the NLG as the present
legal branch of the Communist Party (CC).

A source has also advised that Lane participated
in a debate at a forum sponsored by Burning Issues on

During March and April, 1964, Burning Issues
circulated petitions and otherwise endeavored to have
Mark Lane drafted as a candidate for Congress. According
to a source, on October 13, 1963, Lane was the principal
speaker at a forum on mobilization for youth which was
held by Burning Issues.

CHICAGO, IL J. LEE PARKIN, CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL,
ASSOCIATION OF URBAN INDY.
Confidential sources have advised that Advance, an organization of progressive youth, was founded in New York City, February 12 and 13, 1960, and that its declaration of principles followed the line of the national CP leadership. In January, 1963, the name of the organization was changed to Advance and Burning Issues Youth Organizations, since Burning Issues, a separate youth organization, had affiliated with Advance.

A source reported that Mark Lane was the principal speaker at the annual convention of the Elan Laccaris Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs (ELF) at the Statue of Liberty on July 22, 1961.

The ELF is recognized by the Communist Party, USA, as an important progressive organization of women. It goes out of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the International Order, both of which have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Lane spoke at a meeting of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (ECUA) on October 21, 1963, in New York City, according to several sources. He strongly supported Cuba and condemned United States policy with regard to Cuba.

The ECUA has been described by the ECUA as operating as a communist front.

Several sources reported that Lane was one of the main speakers at a meeting sponsored by the Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights (CCBR) in Chicago, Illinois, on October 21, 1962, and he called for the abolition of the ECUA.

A source has reported that the CCBR was organized in Chicago, Illinois, on October 26, 1963, through the efforts and with the encouragement of CP officials, one of whom became the executive secretary of the CCBR. Its avowed purpose was to seek the abolition of the ECUA.

It was also reported that Mark Lane was a speaker at rallies held on April 21, 1961, and December 6, 1961, sponsored by the New York Council to Abolish the Fourteen American Activities Committee (NYCIAAC).
Hark Lazo

"The Militant" for December 19, 1961, carried an article concerning the rally on December 6, 1961, and stated that Lazo said his first official action during the coming session of the New York State Legislature would be to introduce a resolution to persuade Congress to abolish the ICNA.

"The Militant" is a weekly newspaper of the Socialist Workers Party which has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10653.

Lazo was reported by several sources to have attended numerous meetings of the HCAIUAC between October, 1960, and January, 1963. At a number of these he made speeches in which he strongly urged the abolition of the ICNA. The HCAIUAC is an affiliate of the National Council to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee and both were founded principally by an individual who was a CP member in 1960. Various sources have advised that CP members in the New York City area have been solicited on various occasions to support the HCAIUAC. These sources have reported that during the Spring of 1962 discussions were held at various closed CP club and committee meetings concerning the support of Lazo as a candidate for Congress.

Several sources have also advised that Isidore Cibby Needleman was in frequent touch with Lazo and was interested in assisting him in his political campaign in 1960 to become elected to the New York State Legislature.

According to several sources Needleman, an attorney, was formerly employed by Antics Trading Corporation, the registered Russian trade agency in the United States. He has also represented current and former CP members in court and before various Congressional committees. He has had custody of CP funds and has described himself as a strict adherent of luminist-Communist doctrines. He has also acted as a Soviet espionage agent.

It was reported that a rally was held December 6, 1961, at the Lyceum Theater, Columbia University, New York City, to protest the ban by the University against the
Mark Lane

appearance of several previously scheduled communist
speakers. According to the source, Benjamin J. Davis,
national Secretary of the CP, and Mark Lane were principal
speakers at the rally.

"The New York Times" for June 9, 1931, late city
edition, on page 31 carried an article concerning the arrest
and conviction of Mark Lane on June 8, 1931, at Jackson,
Mississippi, as a member of one of two groups of "Freedom
Riders" who had been apprehended in that city.

The same newspaper in its edition for April 3,
1932, carried an article on page 6 concerning Mark Lane's
having been fined $100 on April 2, 1932, in New York City
as a "scab," for ignoring numerous traffic tickets.

Mark Lane's defence brief for Lee Harvey Oswald
appeared on pages 6, 8 and 9 of the December 20, 1963, issue
of the "National Guardian," which has been cited by the
ICG in having manifested itself as a virtual official
propaganda arm of Soviet Russia.

During an applicant investigation conducted by
the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in connection
with the possible employment of an individual by an agency
of the Federal Government, it was determined that the
Office of the District Attorney, Queens County, New York,
had conducted an investigation of Mark Lane in 1932 for
alleged

The results of this investigation were made
available to the FBI. They included signed statements by
photographs of Lane and investigation

Unless otherwise indicated, all of the above
information was furnished to the FBI by sources who have
furnished reliable information in the past.
This memorandum is classified "Confidential" since it contains information from informants and sources of continuing value which information if divulged could compromise these sources and informants.

See memorandum Bland to W. C. Sullivan dated 1/16/64 captioned "Mark Lane, Security Matter-C", JSC/med.